

## **The Enhancing Questions to Understand Intentions for Pregnancy (EQUIP) Act**

***Endorsed by:** Power to Decide, American Nurses Association, National Council of Jewish Women, American College of Nurse-Midwives, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, Catholics for Choice*

People in the United States experience significant barriers when seeking contraception or planning for healthy pregnancies. These barriers fall hardest on those struggling to make ends meet, and who are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Everyone—no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they make—deserves access to high quality contraceptive counseling and care, and to prenatal care that empowers them to have healthy pregnancies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other medical experts call for counseling people on both their contraceptive and pre-pregnancy health needs;<sup>1</sup> however, many people are not receiving the most appropriate form of reproductive health care at any given time. Pregnancy intention screening initiatives (sometimes called pregnancy desire screening tools) make sure that people are having important, patient-centered conversations with their health providers about their own goals regarding pregnancy and receiving the most appropriate care—whether pre-pregnancy, contraceptive, or other follow-up care.

**The Enhancing Questions to Understand Intentions for Pregnancy (EQUIP) Act** establishes a **pregnancy intention screening demonstration grant** at the CDC. This would facilitate the adoption of evidence-based initiatives that allow health care and social service providers to **routinely screen people about their pregnancy desires** to either **prevent unintended pregnancies** or **improve the likelihood of healthy pregnancies**. The legislation would also evaluate the implementation and outcomes of such protocols among a diverse group of patients and providers.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/qfp.htm>